

(d) Govt. had set up an expert group to look into the nature and magnitude of the problem of low CD ratio of different states and suggest steps to overcome the same. Accordingly, on the recommendations of the group, the Reserve Bank of India had issued instruction to State Level Bankers Committee and convener banks to set up Special Sub-Committees (SSCs) in districts having CD ratio of less than 40% to prepare Monitorable Action Plans to achieve CD ratio of 60% in a phased manner.

Public (Assessee) service cell for advisory service on Tax Returns

1403. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite Government's claim that tax return preparation/filing procedures have been simplified, the common tax payer needs professional advice of a tax consultant to prepare and file his returns, especially small time traders who are required to pay Service Tax;

(b) whether in the process, a new class of professional have emerged as Tax Return Préparers who undertake Tax Return Preparation and filing for a fee; and

(c) whether Government would consider setting up a public (Assessee) service cell within the IT set up to render free advisory service on tax returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Income-tax return preparation and filing procedures have been simplified. However, in a few cases, a small or medium tax-payer may need trained or professional advice so that various provisions of the law are complied with the due benefits available to the tax-payer are availed of. Service-tax returns remain simple and the Government has not received any reference/feedback that small traders need professional advice of a tax Consultant to prepare and furnish their Service-tax returns.

(b) The Union Government has launched the Tax Return Preparers Scheme (TRPS) to provide free help to small and medium tax-payers in the form of Tax Return Preparers to assist them to filing of their income-

tax returns. The Tax Return Preparers (TRPs) will assist individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) to prepare and furnish their return of income but will not deal with the returns of income involving complexity.

(c) The Government has already been conducting the 'Help Centre Programme' for small income-tax assessees during the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 to render free advice on filing of income-tax returns and receiving of PAN applications.

CAG's review of PSUs

1404. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invested lakhs of crores of rupees in PSUs/ deemed Government companies and Co-operative societies, apart from giving subsidies to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CAG has carried out a detailed review of PSUs recently in their report No. 10 of 2006; and

(d) if so, Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The budgetary support by way of investment and subsidies has been extended for past several years to the PSUs etc. in furtherance of public policy objectives. Specific reasons would vary from company to company.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India are laid on the table of the both the Houses of Parliament and are thereafter examined by the Public Account Committee or the Committee on Public Undertaking, as appropriate. During such examination, these Parliamentary Committees summon the concerned officials for evidence and also seek written replies from the concerned Ministries/Departments. Therefore, at this stage, it is not feasible for this Ministry to give a reaction on the C&AG's report.